

## Walter Alonzo Friend, 90



Walter Alonzo Friend passed away in his home at the Village at Duxbury on April 29, 2017.

Walter was born on July 30, 1926, the only son of Walter and Viola Friend. He was raised in Melrose, MA where his grandfather, Leslie, and great uncle, Victor, founded and established the company, Friend Brothers, known throughout New England for Friend's Baked Beans.

He attended high school at the Choate School in Connecticut and then enrolled at Dartmouth College. With the country at war in 1944, he decided to enlist in the U.S. Army on his 18th birthday. As a corporal, he served as a paratrooper in the 152nd Army Airborne, antiaircraft battalion, first in the Philippines and then in Japan.

Walter developed a passion for jazz music in his teens and while at Choate, he learned to play the drums. While serving in the military, he played the drums in an army swing band that would travel to towns and bases around Japan in a train boxcar, memories he always cherished and that would come to define him in later years, as he continued performing professionally. More recently, Walter would sit in with Kenny Wenzel's band at Martinis in Plymouth on Tuesday jazz nights and perform with his own groups of eclectic local musicians at the Village.

After the war, Walter resumed his studies at Dartmouth and graduated with a degree in history in 1949. He then attended Babson School of Business. It was while on vacation in Duxbury during the summer of 1947 that Walter met Cynthia Churchill, whose family owned a summer residence on Fort Hill Lane. They began dating and the following winter, Walter invited Cynthia to Dartmouth Winter Carnival where they fell in love and became engaged. They were married in 1948. Their first child, Leslie, was born the following summer. She was joined by siblings Stephen, Brenda and Bruce. In 1950, Walter became vice president of advertising at Friend Brothers, and the young family moved to Duxbury. In 1963, the family sold Friend Brothers to the Maritime Corporation and Walter and his father established their own company investing in equities.

Walter loved to play and lived to play – skiing was a passion that he passed on and shared with his children, and golf was a hobby he cherished almost as much as his drum set. After Walter retired from business, he and Cynthia relocated to Key West for nearly a decade and lived in a beautiful home on Southard Street, which their children and grandchildren enjoyed visiting frequently. His children will be forever grateful he lived to see the Red Sox win not just one but three World Series and also to see the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history by the Patriots.

In addition to his four children, Walter is also survived by son-in-laws, Paul Belliveau and Rory Brandt, daughter-in-law, Esteka Friend, grandchildren Temuchin, Morgan, Alben, Rhett, Victoria, Erin, Arielle and Alexander and great grandchildren Gavin, Lagan, Church, Zoe, Tucker and Beaudoin.

Please make any donations in Walter's memory to the Beauhawks Foundation for the care of Walter's two great grandchildren with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. More information can be found at [beauhawks.org](http://beauhawks.org).